

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2B

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
28 October 1986

2

✓

Tucker is mum on CIA recruiting

By Christopher Hepp
Inquirer Staff Writer

Police Commissioner Kevin M. Tucker said yesterday that he attended an anti-terrorism seminar at CIA headquarters in July, but he declined to say whether the CIA was attempting to recruit city police officers as temporary agents.

CIA Director William J. Casey "and members of the FBI gave us a briefing on terrorism which I very much appreciated," Tucker said.

Tucker was responding to reports that the CIA was recruiting police officers from Philadelphia and other

big cities to fight overseas terrorism and serve as temporary intelligence officers.

CIA spokeswoman Sharon Foster confirmed yesterday that the agency was trying to recruit police officers for temporary intelligence work, saying that the officers have the investigative skills required by the CIA. Although they are not being recruited specifically to counter terrorism, she said, "there has never been terrorism on as great a scale as it is now."

It was unclear how many officers the CIA needs, or from what cities

they are being recruited. But the New York Times reported yesterday that the agency had contacted the police departments of Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Boston and San Francisco.

New York Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward told the Times that Casey urged him and top officials from the other police departments at a meeting in July to help the recruitment project.

Tucker said he went to the briefing in July, at CIA headquarters in McLean, Va., with an eye toward improving security during the "We the

People 200" celebration in Philadelphia next year for the 200th anniversary of the Constitution.

"That is the extent of my comment," said Tucker, a former Secret Service agent.

A high-ranking police source familiar with the CIA recruitment effort said that the Philadelphia Police Department "is not supplying anyone to the agency." However, when questioned further, the source conceded that to state publicly that the department was supplying police officers might pose a hazard to the officers involved.

STAT

